



# GF&RD

## VOLUNTEER

# TIMES

CERT | Fire Corps | Community Assistance

### Kim's Corner:

It's here... or so they say because pumpkins are beginning to show everywhere, fall time delicious foods. This also means our annual Butter Braid fundraiser will soon be starting. Orders may be placed with any Gilbert Fire & Rescue Volunteer or myself. Thank you in advance for your support with this fundraiser as all proceeds benefit the Volunteer Program.

as well as those



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting. What a successful event! As volunteers you had the opportunity to learn about new happenings and procedures and participated in such productive work groups. Be sure to watch your emails for the results of your voting, and work group outcomes. I also hope you enjoy some of the pictures from the meeting in this month's newsletter. It was so much fun to see so many of you partake in this year's theme and representing your favorite team, enjoy a game of corn hole or pose for the MVP photo!

Congratulations to our Community Assistance Program who celebrated its 10th Anniversary of service earlier this month! You have touched the lives thousands of individuals that live, work, travel or play in Gilbert that you have helped over the years. Thank you!

As we plan for the Dedication and Open House of Station 9 on September 29th; I hope many of you are able to join us and share your time at the ceremony. There are many great opportunities to volunteer for that morning at the station. Please remember to login and sign up online.



Life can keep each of us busy. As you fill your calendars with daily tasks remember what William Black once said, "A very important part of the joy of living is the joy of giving."



Wishing these volunteers an  
extraordinary month as they celebrate a birthday

### August Birthdays

Zach Altman

Larry MacDonald

Nicholas Petropoulos

Ruben Diaz

Caryn Mannheimer

Ryan Priest

Janice Edgington

Cesar Mayorga

Mike Slesar

Ira Goode

Megan Neibauer

Rodney Standage

Melanie Hatch

Maurie Nuttall

Ed Taggard

Fred Wolfe

### September Birthdays

Kent Akbay

Cristen Gochoco-Bissell

Tyson O'Steen

Felix Castro

Marla Martella

# Happy Birthday!

# Annual Meeting 2018




# Community Risk Reduction

Community Risk Reduction (CRR): A new approach to community safety. You will be hearing a lot about this topic as we refocus our efforts on creating the safest possible community for our residents and visitors. So what is CRR? CRR is a systems wide approach focusing our department's resources towards overall risk reduction in the community. Instead of relying on regional, state, or federal data, we will be analyzing 20 years of Gilbert specific responses to ensure we are addressing the most critical needs of our community. By targeting known risks, we can make the greatest impact on improving safety.

Gilbert Fire & Rescue's Community Division will play a major role in this initiative. As risks are identified, education and mitigation plans will be developed and delivered to the community. We will be reliant on our incredible group of volunteers to help assist residents who are unable to perform some of the recommendations. This help might include smoke detector maintenance, school visits, cars seat education, or other yet to be identified needs. Our goal is to help our community help itself. Please watch for further updates on CRR in the near future. Thanks again for all you do to make Gilbert great.

Bob Badgett, Fire Department -Assistant Chief



Greetings from the Community Division. As I have settled into my new position and really just started to get a grasp on our division, I am excited for all I am learning and all that we are doing. I am using plural terms because this is such a team effort, beginning with our Fire Chief and Assistant Chiefs, through the Deputy Chief, passing through our program managers, and ending where the rubber meets the road with you. When we looked at where we are going, the vision was clear that we support our citizens first and the operations of our fire department second. I am excited about our first endeavor as a team with our overall goal being Community Risk Reduction.

Our first goal is to reduce the number of false alarm smoke detector calls that traditionally occur between the months of November and December. Our Program Managers are busy right now gathering data, creating curriculum, developing strategies for education, strategies for delivery of the education, and a way to assist those citizens unable to perform the required process to meet the goal. Our Education Specialist will develop the curriculum and the process, and I am excited to give you the opportunity to do what you do best...Volunteer. Our Volunteer Coordinator will create a campaign where we give citizens the ability to schedule your help to make them safer. This will be accomplished by helping eliminate the things that create these annual false alarms, resulting in not only the citizen's safety, potentially the ability of our response crews to be more readily available for service calls. Stay tuned and thank you in advance for your continued support of the Community Divisions' goal of Community Risk Reduction.

Mark Justus -Community Division Deputy Chief

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST GF&RD VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Becker

Kayli Claflin

Nicholas Petropoulos

## FELLOW FIRE STATIONS

This photo of a fire station in Galway, Ireland was submitted by GF&RD volunteer, Ira Goode.



# Reflections (from the Ham Shack)

Ham doesn't just refer to the mouthwatering treat on the dinner table! It is also an anachronism for a group of dedicated Amateur Radio operators across the world. These individuals have a "hobby" that has a unique strong public service component. Since the early days of radio HAMS have played roles in providing communication in time of need. Putting their skill to use in emergencies when normal communications have been disrupted. Amateur Radio operators, "HAMS", have the equipment, skills and the frequencies necessary to create expedient emergency communication networks under poor conditions. They are licensed and pre-authorized for national and international communications. For example, in 2005, HAMS jumped into action to fill the communication gaps created in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina devastated that area. HAMS train to offer EMCOMM when and where it may be need - let's hope we never need it but if we do HAMS HAVE GOT IT! Come join us!

*~Written by Joe Nuttall*



## RIDDLE ME THIS

I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air; I don't have a mouth, but water kills me. What am I?

*See the bottom of the Mark Your Calendar page for the answer!*

*~Submitted by Heather Balch*

# COM251

I started my training for COM251 in November of 2008: class #2. It's hard to believe that 10 years have passed. So many things have changed as COM251 evolved through the years to become the exceptional program it is today. Here are a few of the changes I remember.

- When we arrived for a shift, we arrived at the cubicle in front of Assistant Chief Duggan's office. We had one cubicle and Kim had the other one. Everything we had for the Suburban fit in that space.
- Each shift we had to load our supplies, including the cooler, on to the dolly and into the Suburban. At the end of shift we unloaded and put it back in the cubicle.
- Kim was in the cubicle next to us and Chief DeWitt's office was in the corner where he could see and hear us as we loaded or worked on reports. Sometime during the first year of service, Kim was moved to her office and COM251 was able to use both cubicles.
- About the third year of the program, COM251 was moved out of the cubicles into the offices where Spring, David Zehring and Josh Freidman currently are. At about this time, we were required to wear steel-toed boots, but had to leave them at Admin. This room had a perfect area with cubbyholes to hold our boots. About two years later we were moved back out to the workspaces where Stephanie is now. This was quite a move for COM251, as we were used to the luxury of the larger room. Little did we know that the next move would be the best one yet; to Station 7.
- We were not allowed to wear our uniforms to and from shift so we had to arrive early enough to change clothes, and then change again at the end of shift.
- When we started; there was one radio and no MCT.
- Our reports were all hand written and the Department Errand program did not exist. If we had a request it was written down, sometimes on post-it notes and put on the clipboard.
- Without an MCT, we had to log our mileage in a logbook. Each time we drove anywhere, we posted the beginning mileage, then the ending mileage.
- For the first several years, there was one computer that had limited access. After the move to Station 7, each volunteer was given a login to the computer and an email address. We now individually sign in and are able to retrieve email and use the Department Errand Program.



*Amy Thomas and Megan Madison  
on shift on the 10th Anniversary  
of COM251*

These are just a few of the changes I can remember as COM251 has grown to the outstanding program that it is today. Each shift brings opportunity to help in some way, from helping a family on a code to changing batteries in a smoke detector. As I look back at the first shift I was on I realize that I enjoy it now as much as I did 10 years ago. I enjoy the team of volunteers that have become my friends. I enjoy the dedication and passion that every volunteer has towards helping the citizens of Gilbert in any way they can, small or big.

*~Written by Dianna Erickson*

# VIP

## Diane Howard

Diane Howard currently holds a position in CERT but also is the organizer of the Welcome Table Reception Team. She is also a qualified member of AZ CART. Diane has been working with the Gilbert Fire Department since 2004. She started volunteering with the Fire Department to try to make a difference and give back to the community. She found that volunteering not only helped the community but provided a great deal of satisfaction. Diane lived in Gilbert for over 20 years and just three years ago moved to Mesa's Eastmark Encore where she also volunteers. That group organizes blood drives, pet drives, and serves the Mesa community in several worthwhile organizations.



Diane was born in Enid, Oklahoma yet only lived there a short time. She is an Air Force Brat and proud of it. Diane was able to see the world including Europe and Japan where her parents were stationed. It was a great life and helped develop a flexible character. Her parents retired in Gilbert in 1970 on horse property. At that time there were only 3,000 people living in Gilbert. Their property on Williams Field and Lindsay was surrounded by corn and alfalfa fields where they used to ride. Diane has watched Gilbert grow and develop into a prosperous and great place to live.

Diane has two grandsons and one granddaughter. Even though she is retired, Diane likes to stay active in the community and also has a pet sitting business. She is passionate about animals. Diane's biggest challenge in life is to stay positive and active. Life is short and it's important to make the best of it. Diane is a firm believer that things happen for a reason and just to go with the flow.

When not volunteering, Diane loves reading, bingo, cards, movies, gardening, staying active in the community and pets (new puppy, Emmi and three cats (Tucker, Maddie and Cooper). She also loves to cruise and has a Mediterranean cruise planned for 2019 - Rome to Barcelona.

Diane is passionate about life! She tries to maintain a sense of curiosity and learn something new every day. In Eastmark, the people are all very interesting and she has become friends with many. Diane's believes a sense of humor is vital in this world and to be able to laugh at yourself is imperative.

The biggest challenge for her in this life was coping with the death of her youngest daughter, Nicole at the age of 12. Her heart goes out to anyone who has lost a child as it is one of the hardest things to deal with in this life.

# VIP

## Janet LaTour

Janet attended the CERT classes in 2004 and has since become a member of CERT, CART and the Fire Corps.

Janet was born at Enid AFB in Oklahoma and was fortunate enough to become an Air Force "brat." She was able to see many places not only in the US but also Germany and Japan. Her Dad was born and raised in the Phoenix area so when he retired he moved to Gilbert in 1971. Gilbert was a very small town then. Janet came here in 1995 and was excited to begin volunteering with the Police and Fire Departments. What a great way to meet people and be able to give back to the community! In 2015, Janet moved to Eastmark Encore in Mesa, still remaining close to Gilbert.



The biggest challenge in her life was after attending school for 5 years at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio, her Dad got transferred to Japan so her senior year of high school was there. She felt she deserted all her previous classmates. Compared to others that was an easy challenge!

Janet loves being retired and able to do exactly what she likes and wants to do. She loves reading and travel. There are many places to visit on her bucket list and she is scratching them off one by one.

Janet is most proud of living in the USA. She discovered through her travels out of the country that there is no better place and has become very passionate about our military, police and fire-

## SPECIAL EVENT ALERT

~Everyday Heroes is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd~

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## September & October 2018

Sept 26th	Fire Safety Class	6-9pm	Open to the public	Amphitheater
Sept 29th	Station 9 Grand Opening	9-11am	CERT and Fire Corps	Station 9
Oct 1st	Butter Braid Sales start			
Oct 6th	COM251 Quarterly	9-11am	COM251	Room 6
Oct 17th	Active Shooter / Stop the Bleed Training	6-9pm	CERT/Fire Corps	Amphitheater
Oct 25th	Learning Lab: Call Types & SWAT Medic	3-4pm	CERT/Fire Corps	Amphitheater
Oct 27th	CPR Pro	9-11am		Room 6
Oct 31st	Butter Braid sales due			



Answer to Riddle Me This: A Fire